



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting Monday, May 9, 2016, 6:00 PM Council Chambers

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman Benton Blakely
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman AC English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: Brianna Bradham, The Manning Times

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Nathaniel Pugh	Bobbi L. Adams	Ray Adams
Patricia Pringle	Dr. Connie J. Dennis	Tobey Elgin	John Tindal
Tammy Rodvansky	Robert McFadden	Chris Lee	Phyllis Way
Bessie Harvin	Albert Harvin, Sr.	Cathy Williams	Dr. Rose Wilder
And other Clarendon County Residents			

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

I. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stewart asked for an approval of the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Council Meeting Agenda for May 9, 2016.

II. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on April 11, 2016 with corrections.

III. Presentation - Central SC Alliance

Ms. Melissa Mimms began her presentation by stating that Clarendon County joined the Alliance in 2004 and since that date, 1,113 new jobs have been created, and \$258,775,000 has been announced in Capital Investment.

Mr. Mike Briggs began by stating that currently there are seven active projects and \$2,600,000 has been announced in capital investment. He continued by stating that in 2015, there were 30 announcements (10 new announcements and 20 Expansion Projects). Mr. Briggs further stated that during their Euro Mission trip in April, they visited five countries in seven days marketing Central South Carolina for new business. He concluded his presentation by stating that the Alliance would continue to market Central South Carolina by printing Area Development Magazines and posting information on billboards.

V. Ordinance 2016-02

Mr. Lynden Anthony, Controller, began his presentation by stating that back in 2006; Act 388 was passed capping the amount of increase allowed in millage rates:

- Since first reading, we reduced revenues by \$35,000 in Clerk of Court Fees from the State.
- We are requesting authorization to enter into a capital lease in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for purchasing and equipping patrol vehicles for the sheriff's department.
- We are requesting a \$25,000 increase to Central Carolina Technical College for its Clarendon Scholars initiative.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating the following: The budget that we are submitting for Second Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 0.12% for County operations and a 2% Cost of Living Allowance for employees.

- We have maintained General Fund support for Weldon Auditorium at \$15,000 in the upcoming Fiscal Year.
- We are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund maintain its level of operational support at \$100,000 for Weldon Auditorium.
- We are requesting a \$20 increase in the annual Road User Fee, to be used (as required by ordinance) for an expanded road repairs and maintenance program.
- Total General Fund operational expenditures at this point total \$21,206,992; a decrease of about 6.1% over the current year's Supplemental Budget. This figure results in a deficit of \$284,765.
- With regards to Fire service, we have requested a 1-mill increase in the budget in keeping with our long-range plan to bring the average age of our rolling equipment down. This increase will allow Fire service to acquire necessary equipment annually to reduce the average age of our response fleet considerably over the next 9 years.
- We would also like to request a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note in the event it becomes necessary in the fall for cash flow purposes.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation of the Second Reading of the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget by stating that at this point we have budgeted the following level of expenses:

1. General Fund	\$21,206,992
2. General County Debt	843,115
3. FE Dubose Vocational Tech	210,000
4. Fire Operating	3,011,400
5. Fire Debt	105,163
6. Admin Complex Debt Service	489,615
7. Courthouse Debt Service	262,300
Total Appropriations	<u>\$ 26,128,585</u>
Water & Sewer (operational exp.)	491,917
Weldon Auditorium (operational exp.)	213,000

- Vice Chairman Frierson asked Mr. Anthony would he explain what is the purpose of the increase of \$20 in Road User Fee.
- Mr. Anthony responded by stating that the Road User Fee would only be used to repair and improve county maintained roads.
- Councilman Blakely asked Mr. Anthony to estimate what the \$20 increase amount would be.
- Mr. Anthony responded by stating that the increase would amount to approximately \$570,000.

1. **Dr. Tim Hardee**, President of Central Carolina/FE Dubose, began his presentation by stating that there were 482 graduates from Central Carolina in 2016 and 51 of the graduates were from Clarendon County and 42 students graduated in Mechatronics. The students that graduated in Mechatronics, went to school 20 hours a week and worked at Continental Tires 20 hours a week. Now the students are getting paid \$22 an hour working for Continental Tires. Dr. Hardee continued by stating that Central Carolina formed a partnership with all three Clarendon County School Districts offering a two-year college scholarship to qualified high school students. He concluded by asking Council to increase the college appropriation back to the 2007 level of \$297,000.

Chairman Stewart thanked Dr. Hardee for all that he does for Central Carolina and the surrounding Areas.

2. **Dr. Rose Wilder**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District One, began her report by stating that District 1 received two Gold Awards, one for the Advanced Education Team and one for the Index of Education Quality.

Ms. Renee Jeffcoat, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 1 has a balanced budget. She continued by stating that Clarendon 1 purchased laptops for all students in grades 6 – 12 as well as iPads

for students from PreK through 5th grade. Ms. Jeffcoat continued by stating that Clarendon 1 has wireless access in all schools and this budget includes a 2% Cost of Living Increase for the district employees.

Councilman Richardson thanked Dr. Wilder and Clarendon 1 School Board for all that they do for Clarendon School District One.

3. **Mr. John Tindal**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District Two, began by stating that Clarendon 2 has extended their STEM Program. He continued by stating that Clarendon 2 has 21 students in the scholarship program attending Central Carolina Technical College. Mr. Tindal concluded his presentation by stating that the 21 students that are attending CCTC will graduate with a high school diploma as well as an Associate Degree in Art at the same time.

Ms. Kathy Williams, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 2 is requesting an operating millage increase from 131.4 to 131.6 mills based on the millage cap increase of .12%. Ms. Williams concluded by stating that this budget will be granting employees a 2% cost of living increase.

Councilman English and Vice Chairman Frierson thanked Mr. Tindal, Ms. Williams, and District Two Board Members for everything that they do for Clarendon 2.

4. **Dr. Connie Dennis**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District Three, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 will have a summer reading program. Clarendon 3 added a third 4K class. She continued by stating that Clarendon 3 will have the same student / teacher ratio as the prior year. Dr. Dennis concluded her presentation by stating that there would be two certified directors added this year.

Ms. Laura Fleming, Financial Director, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 spent \$273,000 less than budgeted. She continued by stating that Clarendon 3 did not have any capital improvement projects for the last three years. Ms. Fleming further stated that Clarendon 3 would reinstate the 3K class next year. She concluded by stating that Clarendon 3 is requesting a 2% cost of living increase for the district employees.

Councilman Blakely thanked Dr. Dennis and Clarendon 3. He stated that Clarendon 3 does a great job with the little that they have.

Chairman Stewart thanked all three school districts as well as Central Carolina for the work that they are doing.

VI. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2016-02

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing was open for Ordinance 2016-02, An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017, to Direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed during Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:06 pm.

Administrator Epperson began by explaining the increase in the Road User Maintenance Fee. He stated that Clarendon County maintains 370 miles of roads in the county. Mr. Epperson continued by stating that the flood in October affected this area very hard. He further stated that it takes 1.5 million dollars of taxpayers dollars to maintain roads. Mr. Epperson stated that the Road User Fee would be for people that use the roads.

Administrator Epperson further stated that a penny sales tax on prepared food and beverage would take our sales taxes up to \$.10, which would be one of the highest in the Country.

- **Councilman Richardson** asked why couldn't we use money from the C-Fund Program.

- **Administrator Epperson** responded by stating that 75% of the funds from the C-Fund Program is used to pave roads and the other 25% is used to repair state maintained roads. He continued by stating that the funds from a 1% sales tax is restricted as to how it is used.
- **Patricia Pringle, Auditor:** She stated that she opposed the increase in the Road User Fee. She stated that she feels the increase in Road User Fee would be a burden on the taxpayers and it would be a struggle for some people. Ms. Pringle continued by stating that a step increase would be better than \$20 in one year. She continued by stating that Clarendon County Road User Maintenance Fee would be the highest in the state whereas; Sumter County is \$15, Lee County is \$30.00 and Orangeburg County does not have a Road User Fee.
- **Chairman Stewart:** He asked Ms. Pringle what does she suggest.
- **Ms. Pringle:** She responded by suggesting a penny sales tax.
- **Chairman Stewart:** Because of the flood, our roads were damaged and the \$20 increase is \$.05 a day.
- **Robert McFadden:** Stated that he agreed with Ms. Pringle and he asked what historical data do you have to justify what you are proposing?
- **Administrator Epperson:** We looked at different figures versus what we need to do the job.
- **Vice Chairman Frierson:** Asked what services do we cut to maintain roads?
- **Administrator Epperson:** Our roads are in good shape and we need to keep them that way. Our Public Works department does not have the manpower or equipment to keep up the roads.
- **Mr. Briggs:** To double the Road User Maintenance Fee is harsh to tax payers. He stated that the penny sales tax would raise more money.
- **Ray Adams:** Why can't you just tax the first two cars?
- **Citizen:** She stated that the roads were in bad shape before the flood and she would rather pay a penny more in taxes than \$20 more on the tax bill.
- **Mr. Harvin:** Chapel AME Church driveway needs to be resurfaced.
- **Larry Johnson:** Opposed the \$20 increase in Road User Fee. He continued by stating that he believes in justice for everyone and the \$.05 a day will hurt the poor people. He believes that we should allocate our resources more effective. He continued by stating that he will do all that he can to help

Chairman Stewart stated that if there were no other comments, that the public hearing will close. The Public hearing closed at 8:07 pm. He continued by stating that he is voting in favor of the \$20 increase in Road User Fee.

VII. Ordinance 2016-02

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the second reading of Ordinance 2016-02, An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017, to Direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed during Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017.

VII. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating that the General Fund had Expenditures of \$2,140,629 and Revenue Figures were not available for the month of April.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Weldon Auditorium total Revenue for the month of April was \$44,863, and total Expenses of \$177,263. He stated that after transfers from the General Fund, Accommodation taxes and Hospitality Taxes in the amount of \$125,000, the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of April with a deficit of \$7,400.

Mr. Anthony further stated that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Revenue of \$588,545 and Operating Expenses of \$250,217 as of April 30, 2016. He stated that after depreciation, transfers, interest income, and Grant Revenue totaling \$1,190,400, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility income of \$1,316,183.

Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that the C-Fund Program for the month of March 2016 had a Cash Balance of \$4,234,699 of which \$4,236,718 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds.

VII. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council an update on the following projects:

- USDA Phase 1B – Project is progressing. Should be online by the end of July 2016.
- USDA Phase 1C – Project is nearing completion. Water will be tested with permits to operate soon.
- USDA Phase II – Meeting with Engineers to finalize a work schedule.
- Long Term Assistance – The group continuing to meet and identify resources so assistance can be provided to the residents of the tri-county area.
- Work on heavily damaged roads by the Private Contractors is complete.
- Financial –Reimbursements have been submitted to FEMA and SCEMD and these payments have started to come in.
- Road Paving – Work is nearing completion on all roads scheduled for paving through the County's portion of C-Funding for 2015.
- Althea Gibson Governmental Services Center – the project has been solicited, responses have been received, and interviews conducted. A contract would be awarded soon and the project can begin.
- Landfill Hours – Due to the level of use at our landfill during certain times and days of the week, we have adjusted the operating hours of our landfill. The new hours are 7:30 am – 4 pm, Monday – Friday and 8 am -2 pm on Saturday. Closed on Sunday.

VIII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he would be participating in the Festival in Summerton this weekend and he will be attending the South Carolina Association of Counties Board Meeting on May 26, 2016 in Columbia.

IX. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to receive an Economic Development Briefing on Project Gordon and Georgia Pacific as well as a Contractual Matter in reference to Clarendon Health Systems.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session. The Executive Session began at 8:22 pm.

X. Open Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session. The Executive Session ended at 9:49 PM.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received the following information from Administrator Epperson and George Kosinski, Development Board Director, and Action would be taken:

- i. Project Gordon – Received an Economic Briefing and Council instructed Administrator Epperson to do some more negotiating with Project Gordon who wishes to remain nameless.

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion for Administrator Epperson to do some more negotiating with Project Gordon.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval for Administrator Epperson to do some more negotiating with Project Gordon.

2. Georgia Pacific – Chairman Stewart stated that Council received some information that Georgia Pacific requested to have a corporate name change and to extend their investment period for another 5 years.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request of Georgia Pacific for a corporate name change and a 5 years extension on their investment period. The name was changed to Georgia-Pacific Wood Products LLC.

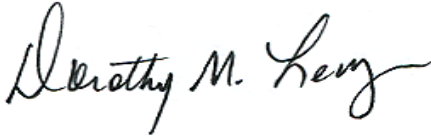
3. Clarendon Health Systems – Chairman Stewart stated that no action would be taken, information only.

IX. Adjournment

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous approval to adjourn the Council meeting. The Council Meeting ended at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

